

and I can assure them, Congress will have a voice in the site of the museum. Before construction can begin, congressional committees will be consulted on site selection, as detailed in the bill.

The Smithsonian board of regents, which will select the site, is chaired by Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts and comprises multiple members of Congress, including three sitting Senators, as well as the Vice President.

Congress will also need to appropriate funds, a de facto ratification or rejection of the site selected by the Smithsonian board of regents.

I intend there will be open lines of communication between members of Congress and the Smithsonian board of regents as they undertake this significant project.

It has been estimated if we pass this bill today, the doors to a new museum would not open for at least a decade and more likely not until 2034—so I am eager to get the process moving.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I appreciate the work of my colleagues for raising the issue of the site of National Museum of the American Latino and for helping to find agreement.

I thank Chairman BLUNT and Senator CORNYN for their commitment. I also thank many of our colleagues who helped us reach this solution today.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the conference report for the annual defense policy bill, known as the National Defense Authorization Act or NDAA. Like all conference reports, this is a product of negotiations between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Producing a conference report takes dedicated negotiators who are willing to make tough compromises. I commend them for their work, and I particularly want to thank my friend, Senator JACK REED, who has shown strong leadership as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I hope these negotiations will be a good omen for how Congress will work under the incoming Biden administration.

But supporting the process that produced this conference report is very different from supporting the report on its merits.

I have voted against the Senate version of this defense bill twice now, once during the rollcall vote in July and then during a voice vote last month. House negotiators have managed to improve the bill since then, but not so significantly that I am able to support it now.

I want to be clear that I support plenty of provisions in this NDAA. I even wrote or negotiated some of the language to improve the bill.

The bill includes anti-money laundering provisions, which I strongly support. I have twice introduced bipar-

tisan legislation to end the abuse of anonymous shell companies, and I am happy to see the NDAA expand upon my efforts.

The conference report will also set in motion a 3-year process to remove Confederate names from military assets. I would have preferred a shorter timeline, but I am glad that Congress will be taking this overdue step to ensure that military bases do not honor traitors who fought to defend the horrific institution of slavery.

And the conference report also includes my amendments to push the Pentagon toward encrypting its computers and to require the Army to provide a plan to finish cleaning up the former Umatilla Army Depot within 3 years.

But I cannot in good conscience authorize \$740 billion in military spending—including roughly \$70 billion to continue the forever wars—while Senate Republicans are offering mere crumbs to help folks stay safe from a raging pandemic and help small businesses stay afloat during this unprecedented time.

I said previously that I could not vote for a defense bill with Federal agents actively occupying Portland and treating peaceful protestors like foreign enemies. Donald Trump may have removed much of his occupying force but this bill does nothing to prevent him or any future president from ordering similar abuses.

And I have serious concerns about a provision that will permit the Secretary of the Treasury or the Attorney General to issue subpoenas, with indefinite gag orders, to foreign banks that maintain a correspondent account in the United States.

There may be some limited instances where it may be appropriate to restrict bank employees from notifying account holders about a Federal subpoena to obtain their records, but as a general rule, I oppose indefinite gag orders. I worry this section grants dangerous powers to the executive branch to regulate speech, raising very serious First Amendment and due process concerns. That is why gag orders should not be included automatically with every subpoena and should have an expiration date, so that any restrictions on speech apply no longer than necessary.

I regret that these and other flaws mean that I must continue to oppose this NDAA at this time. I yield the floor with the hope that Republicans will be as willing to provide real help for everyday Americans suffering—particularly during this tough holiday season—as they are to greenlight ever-higher levels of military spending.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the United Nations World Food Programme, which is receiving the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize today.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those “who shall have done the most, or the best work, for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”

The World Food Programme, WFP, the largest humanitarian organization focused on eliminating global hunger and increasing food security, truly embodies those ideals.

The organization was awarded the honor for “its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.”

Those efforts, when put into numbers, show just what an enormous impact WFP has as a last line of defense between hungry people and starvation. Each year, the organization provides more than 15 billion meals to 100 million people in more than 80 countries. It was the world’s largest nongovernmental provider of school meals, reaching 18 million children in 59 countries in last year.

The logistical challenges of accomplishing this goal may seem overwhelming to most but not to the WFP. The organization has it down to a science. WFP’s 18,000 staff has over 5,000 trucks, 120 aircraft, and 20 ships on the move daily, bringing food to those who need it most.

The WFP’s executive director, David Beasley, is a good friend of mine. His commitment to serving a higher calling is inspirational. I couldn’t be more pleased that the spotlight is pointed on the work of the WFP under David’s dedicated leadership.

David will be the first to tell you that despite this honor, the WFP’s work is far from complete. After the announcement, he said, “The good news is we’re feeding 80 million people on any given day in 80 countries. The bad news is it’s getting worse out there—the famine, the droughts, the conflicts.”

While that assessment is spot-on, I would add one more factor to the list, the coronavirus pandemic. According to the WFP, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to double the number of people facing acute hunger to 270 million people. It may also lead to emergence of famine in multiple countries.

The pandemic makes the lifesaving work of the WFP all that much more vital. In a world where 60 percent of people suffering from chronic hunger live in countries affected by violence, additional nutritional access constraints only serve to make food a more powerful weapon of war. The WFP’s efforts to overcome that challenge and bring food to the hungry in conflict zones makes the organization well-deserved of the honor of a Nobel Peace Prize.